

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Independent claim 18 has been amended to further clarify features of the claims. The other claims have not been amended. Applicants believe that the Office action fails to consider the teachings of Astiz and the features of the claims as a whole. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. Examiner Interview dated June 26, 2008

An interview was held on June 26, 2008. During the interview, the claims and the references were discussed as more fully set forth herein. Examiner Singh suggested a few claim amendments to applicants for purposes of clarity. The changes were made as indicated above. Applicants do not believe that an updated search is required.

II. Rejections of the Claims

Claims 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,035, 330 issued to Astiz et al. (hereinafter "Astiz"). Claims 1-3, 8-9, and 18-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Astiz. Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections.

Astiz specifically teaches away from several of the features set forth in the claims. FIGURE 5 of Astiz is depicted as follows:

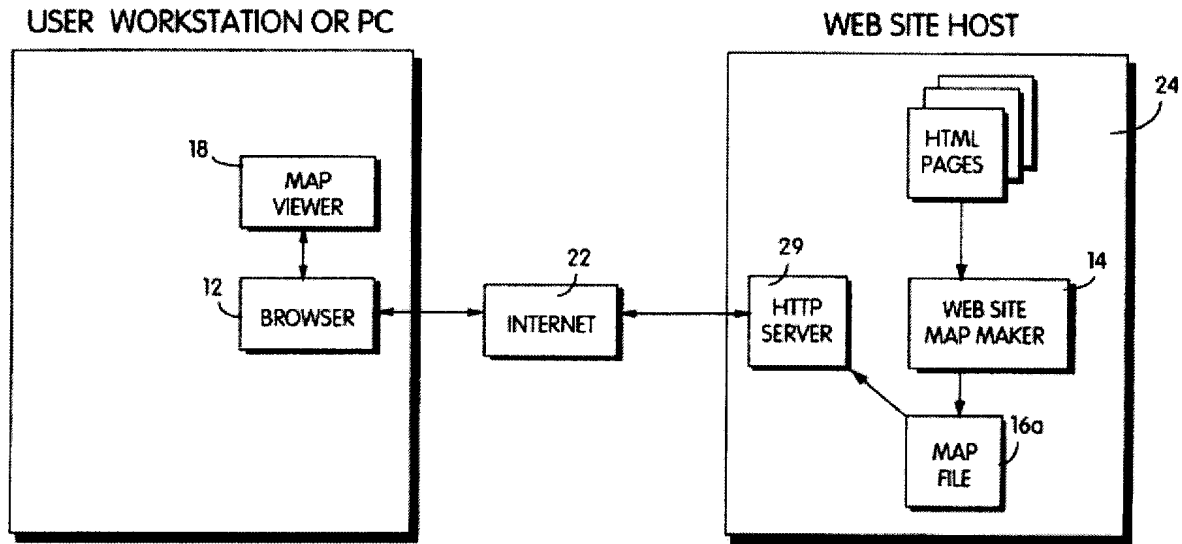


FIGURE 5 of Astiz clearly shows that the Map viewer 18 is located on the User Workstation or PC. The Web site map maker 14 is located on the Web site host 24. Astiz teaches that:

Once a site map data structure is created by the map maker 14, it is stored in a map database memory 16 for access by browser 12 via map viewer 18.... A user displays the web site map by clicking for example on the map icon displayed on the browser display screen. The browser 12 then checks the map database 16 to retrieve and display the web site map using the map viewer 18. If there is not a map for the web site, the map viewer 18 requests the map maker 14 to create a corresponding site map and store it in the map database 16. After the map is created for this site, the map is displayed by the map viewer 18. (Astiz, at col. 9, lines 31-44.)

It is clear from this teaching in Astiz, that Astiz is teaching that the map maker is on the web site host and the database memory is on the web site host. The map viewer 18 is on the user workstation. The map viewer 18 is not configured to generate the map. The map maker 14 generates the map. These teachings are highlighted in Astiz because of the scope of the mapping that Astiz is teaching. Astiz specifically teaches that the mapping is generated and stored on the

web site host and not on the user computer. Astiz teaches the drawbacks to the alternative as follows:

This example implementation offers significant cost and performance advantages over one in which each user accessing the Web site is mapping the site. From the user's point of view, the site map already exists. The user therefore does not have to wait for his workstation or PC to generate the map-a lengthy process if the Web site is large and the user's access connection speed is low (residential Internet access connections are generally low speed). Additionally, the user must connect to the Internet Service provider while the site is being mapped and therefore incurs connection costs. From the point of view of the Web site owner, if each user that accesses his Web site generates a map, the Web site server must transmit larger volumes of data to the user's workstation than the server normally would transmit within a shorter period of time. Effectively, the entire Web site would have to be transmitted. Since the map maker on the user workstation can process the information much faster than a user browsing through the site, there would be a significantly larger number of requests for files placed on the Web host over a shorter span of time. This would significantly degrade the performance of the server and affect the overall quality of the service. (Astiz, at col. 8, lines 33-55.)

Here, Astiz is teaching the problems of each user mapping the site. Astiz teaches the configuration of FIGURE 5 to remedy the problem of each user mapping the site. To remedy the problem, Astiz teaches that putting a map maker on the Web site host and having a view located on the client device access maps in a storage on the host. Aspects of the current specification allows the map making to take place on the user device so that the user is generating and viewing the map as it is being dynamically created. The current specification addresses the problems identified in Astiz with a different configuration. The problems identified in Astiz are addressed in the specification by the scope and dynamic attributes in the map making process that takes place on the user's computer, while the map making process in Astiz addresses the above problems by having the map making process in the web site host. In the teachings of the current specification, the map making and modification takes place **on the current device and each user can generate their own map dynamically as they search.** This configuration of the specification provides several advantages as indicated in the specification as follows:

Embodiments of the present invention solve the above and other problems by providing methods and systems for automatically diagramming a web site and

associated web pages and links based on interactive navigation and selection performed by a user. Through interactive hyperlink selection and diagramming of the present invention, a web site diagram is constructed that is based upon the web pages and links selected by a user while the user is traversing or navigating the web site starting at any given point within the web site. The diagram may be prepared so that only user-selected web pages and/or links are mapped and diagrammed, or all web pages and/or links at each traversed level of the web site may be mapped and diagrammed.

More particularly, according to aspects of the invention, a user launches a web diagramming application for diagramming selected portions of a web site. The user provides the web diagramming application a starting point, such as a starting web site address or web page address. The web diagramming application automatically creates and displays a diagram of the web site from the starting point provided by the user. A portion of the displayed diagram may then be selected as a starting point for interactive hyperlink selection and diagramming.

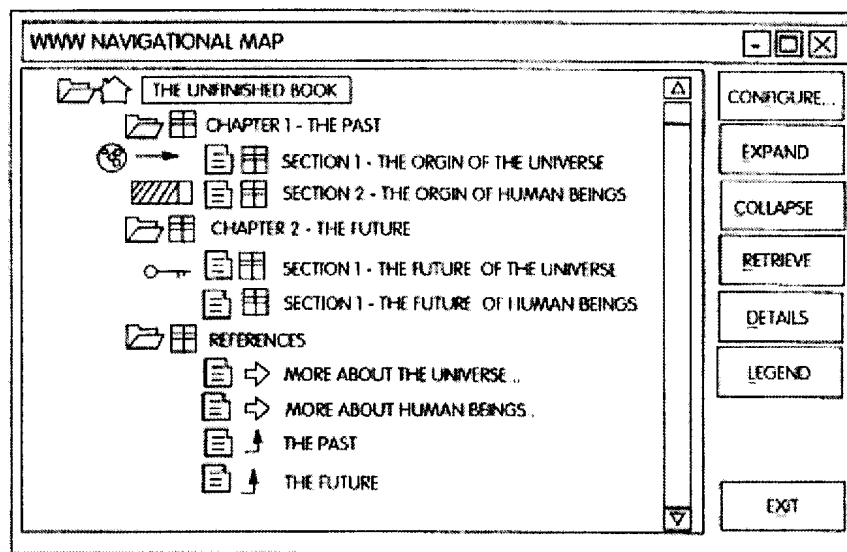
Upon selection of a portion of the displayed diagram as a starting point, the web diagramming application launches a hosted web browser control (program) to allow the user to interactively navigate through selective portions of the web site in a similar manner as the user would normally navigate through the web site using a web browsing application. The user may select web pages, select links, enter search terms, provide authentication information, and the like in order to navigate to those web pages and/or links of the web site that are of interest to the user.

While the user is navigating the web site, the hosting web diagramming application builds a data structure for mapping each site, page or link navigated to by the user. For each discovery (navigation) level traversed by the user, only those pages or links selected by the user may be mapped to the data structure. Alternatively, all pages and links at each discovery level traversed by the user may be mapped to the data structure. When the interactive navigation and mapping session is closed, the web diagramming application, using the data structure, creates and displays a diagram showing the web site, web pages and links selected by the user during navigation. Thus, the user receives a mapping of a web site that is tailored to the user's navigation through the web site. (Specification, at page 2, line 13 – page 3, line 17).

The specification includes the advantages of map making on the user computer during the navigation process. The user is able to dictate the scope of the map making dynamically to overcome the efficiency, bandwidth and consumption issues that are identified in Astiz. These

are some of the same issues that Astiz teaches the moving of the map making and storage process to the web host. In Astiz, the map is generated and stored on the web site host for later access by a viewer. If a new web site is encountered and does not have a map, again, the new map is generated on the web site host and stored on the web site host. The maps in Astiz are incrementally static. Astiz teaches that "[i]f a map for this new web site is not stored in the map database 16, the user is preferably prompted to indicate whether he wants the map maker 14 to create a map in real time for the website." (*Astiz*, col. 10, lines 54-58.) Again, the map maker 14 is on the web site host. The user in Astiz must download or cause the generation on the web site host.

The independent claims been amended to recite the relevant features taking place "on the web site diagramming application of the client." Again, as indicted in Astiz, Astiz teaches the web site map maker on the web host site. The independent claims also recite the expend target indicator as set forth above. For this feature of claim 1, the Office Action cites to FIGURE 6 of Astiz along with column 10, lines 1-14 of Astiz. FIGURE 6 of Astiz is depicted as follows:



There is no teaching in Astiz of what the Expand button does. At column 10, lines 1-14, Astiz teaches that:

Alternatively, one of the features of the present invention is exclusion of certain types of information including certain branches, certain types of files, redundant

links, directories that should not be released to the general public, and certain links which require external viewers or might clutter up the map. **While these links may be included in the map data structure file**, they may be selectively disabled for a less cluttered map unless the user requests display of the full map. (Astiz, col. 10, lines 6-14, emphasis added.)

This teaching is not tied to the Expand button in FIGURE 6. Again, Astiz does not explain the Expand button. Astiz teaches that the links are still mapped...they just are not displayed to the user. This would be a problem in the current specification in that the mapping is taking place on the user device. Excessive mapping may cause bandwidth and efficiency problems with the mapping on the user device. Accordingly, applicants assert that the Office Action fails to consider the teachings of Astiz and the features of independent claim 1 as a whole. Reconsideration is requested.

With regard to the dependent claims, they include features that are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Furthermore, those claims ultimately depend from the independent claims above. As such, they should be found allowable for at least those same reasons.

III. Request for Reconsideration

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/822,312
Amendment dated June 27, 2008
Reply to Office Action of April 30, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.



RYAN T. GRACE

Registration No. 52,956

Direct Dial: 402.344.3000

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

P. O. Box 2903

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903

206.342.6200

27488

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE